

WINTER CAMPING INFORMATION & POLICIES

Camp Marin-Sierra is a 320-acre Scout property bordered on three sides by thousands of acres of scenic wilderness in the Tahoe National Forest lands. Along California State Hwy 20, it is located on the North or downhill side of the roadway approximately 2/3-mile from Interstate 80 off Exit 161 (for Nevada City). The camp is fully-surrounded by California history with timber flumes and abandoned logging camps, the transcontinental railway corridor and Lake Spaulding reservoir nearby, breath-taking Donner Pass and the Pacific Crest Trail (PCT), the Donner party's infamous final winter campsite, and five alpine ski areas. Camp Marin-Sierra offers fantastic outdoor Winter activities for all, and a restful place to spend your evenings by the fireplace.



Lodging & Facilities

Ibach Lodge was built in 1955 originally serving as the camp's first-aid building and infirmary; this classic lodge-style structure was enlarged to its present size in 1962. Located just 850 ft from the camp entrance and only 150 ft from the main parking lot, Ibach Lodge has a full kitchen, large dining hall, two bathrooms (one w/shower), a living room with metal fireplace, and sleeping accommodations up to 36 people.

Murray Lodge was relocated here from SF Bay's Treasure Island in 1950 and enlarged to include a second-floor bunkroom. Set among the trees overlooking Chubb Lake, Murray Lodge provides visitors with more secluded accommodations. It is equipped with a small kitchen and dining area, a 1/2 bath, stone fireplace, bunks for a sleeping capacity of 16, and plenty of nostalgia among the knotty-pine log walls.

Adirondack Cabins are individual four-person cabins complete with lighting and power outlets. Located on both sides of the parking lot, they can be used by smaller groups. Mattresses are available in limited supply. No cooking or heating is allowed indoors.

Campsites for those wishing to enjoy the great outdoors, three popular locations are available. The most secluded, Gold Rush is located across Chubb Lake and receives the first rays of the

morning sun. The more popular sites, 49'er and Drexler Flat are a short walk from parking, have a winter water supply system that will not freeze, and plenty of surface area for tents.

Camp Ranger

Marin-Sierra has a resident, year-round camp ranger/property manager. During the winter months, the Ranger is responsible for clearing snow from the driveway and parking lot, checking groups into and out of camp, and enforcing the health, safety, and risk-management policies associated with this camp property as a BSA facility.

Camp Contacts

Unit Reservations & Fees:

Marin Council, BSA
225 West End Avenue
San Rafael, CA 94901
Ph: 415-454-1081 Fx: 415-454-5511
staff@boyscouts-marin.org

Address Location:

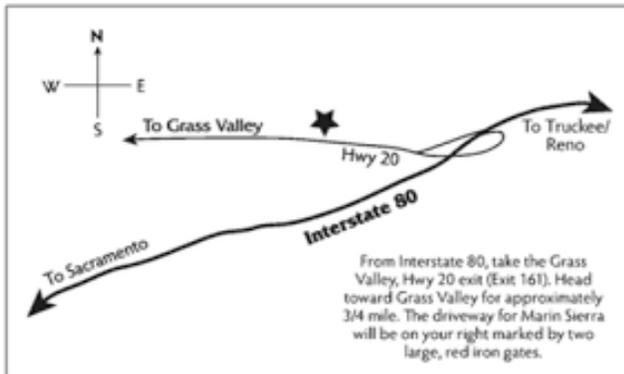
40990 State Highway 20
Emigrant Gap, CA 95715
www.boyscouts-marin.org/camping-facilities/camp-marin-sierra/4056

Onsite Ranger: Jake Van Winkle

Mobile: 530-333-7741
Office: 530-389-2427

Directions to Camp

Follow these directions ONLY! Do not use Google or MapQuest; they may be wrong!



Vehicle Parking Policy

There will be limitations on vehicle parking spaces from late October thru mid-May due to seasonal snow removal. Vehicles must be parked in the main parking lot of the camp. The ranger's driveway along State Hwy 20 is not a parking area. From the parking lot, campers will hike their gear to the location of their stay. Leaders should check-in with the camp ranger prior to parking.

Park vehicles starting in the center of the parking lot, then working outward in either direction (see drawing on last page). This allows the Ranger to plow snow from around the vehicles during a storm. The Ranger may tow any vehicles not complying with the camp parking policies.

Each driver is responsible for the conduct and safety of passengers in their vehicle. The parking lot is restricted to only parking, loading, and unloading of vehicles. No snow play is allowed in the parking lot.

When parked, every vehicle should be locked with a card placed on the dashboard noting the name of the driver and the unit number. Do not set your parking brake because it may freeze in place inhibiting movement of the vehicle. Lift your windshield wipers to prevent freezing.

Although the Ranger plows the parking lot frequently, be prepared with a shovel should you need to dig snow from immediately around your vehicle in order to load and depart. Before leaving, clear all snow off the top of your vehicle; snow falling off vehicles at freeway speeds can be hazardous to other drivers.



Responsibilities & Procedures

While at Camp Marin-Sierra, the onsite leader is considered to be the safety coordinator and responsible for the adherence to all policies and procedures. Each driver and adult attending should be briefed on these policies and restrictions before leaving home. All drivers and leaders are responsible for the supervision of all Scouts and passengers when they are within 200 feet of State Hwy 20. No snow play is permitted within 200 feet of the roadway.

- 1) Reservations must be made through the Marin Council Service Center. Reservations are confirmed when the required deposit and all forms have been received at the Council office.
- 2) Once reservations have been confirmed, the unit leader must call the Camp Ranger (530-333-7741) at least three days in advance to confirm approximate arrival time and advise the number of vehicles arriving. At this time, the leader will learn of any changes to the camp's facilities and access based on seasonal weather conditions.

- 3) Six-to-twelve hours before departing home, the leader must call the Camp Ranger (530-333-7741) to learn the most current local weather conditions at camp and the general area. Weather in the Sierras can change without warning. When the Ranger deems it necessary due to safety concerns, the camp can be closed if there are impending or ongoing extreme weather events. CalTrans road information can be checked online or by calling 800-427-7623. Use common sense and check the current local weather reports before leaving. Type the camp zip code (95715) into your favorite weather website to check forecast conditions. The camp is at about 5400ft elevation, so use this altitude to determine if there will be rain or snow. Don't use this information to decide whether or not to bring chains; always bring them!
- 4) Schedule vehicle arrivals and departures from camp so that there is two-deep adult leadership onsite at all times.



Always carry tire chains and winter supplies when traveling anywhere in the Sierra Nevada in case you are forced to stop along the way during the frequent storms. Due to weather conditions, power outages are not uncommon. When this occurs, the electric stoves and water system including toilets, are out of service. Check with the Camp Ranger when you arrive as to how to deal with this possibility.

The buddy system is required for travel in and around camp at all times! Areas in camp that are off limits during the Winter are: the lake, the maintenance building area, other buildings or campsites not reserved by your group, and any area on or near State Highway 20. Stay away from any building due to snow slides off the roof, and do not climb on any roof.

Program Opportunities

While at Camp Marin-Sierra, you will have the opportunity to build snow forts and throw snowballs, go sledding or snowshoeing or cross-country skiing, camp-out in the snow overnight in your tent or build a snow shelter, and cook a meal outdoors on a camp stove or over a wood fire. You may also want to visit nearby ski areas --- Boreal Mountain, Donner Ski Ranch, Royal Gorge, Soda Springs, Sugar Bowl or Tahoe Donner --- for excellent alpine or cross-country (Royal Gorge or Tahoe Donner) skiing just 30 minutes away from camp.

Popular sledding areas are the hill just past the maintenance buildings and the hill under the power lines near the rifle range. Always wear a sports helmet (bicycling or skiing) during any sledding activity. Building snow caves or structures can be fun; however because of risks, this should involve adult supervision. Winter camp at Marin-Sierra can be challenging, and even in poor weather, your Scouts' experiences can be confidence-building and memorable.

In order to avoid leaving an ashen mess when the snow melts in the Spring, please consult with the Camp Ranger prior to building a fire outdoors. He can guide you to existing fire pits.

Snowshoe-Use Guidelines

The camp-owned snowshoes were a direct donation from Atlas Snowshoe Company in San Francisco. They are available to all winter campers at no additional charge, and are

available to all users of the camp. Please make sure they are shared accordingly!

Everyone must make a hike plan before embarking on the hike. Items to include:

- Use the buddy system. Who is going?
- Describe where you are going.
- When will you return?
- Exchange cell phone numbers.
- Check in and out with your leader.

Anyone hiking with snowshoes must return no later than 4pm; the sun sets early in the winter. The proper way to put on a snowshoe is to push your heel to the rear and tighten the heel strap first. Then tighten the toe straps. Do not use snowshoes on hard surfaces: parking lot asphalt, Ibach or Murray Lodge concrete porches, or inside any buildings or structures.

STAY OFF Chubb Lake AT ALL TIMES!

It is unsafe to walk on the snow and ice. Also be careful near creeks; snowshoes do not float! Report any damage to the Camp Ranger immediately. If snowshoes are damaged, you must replace them.



Food, Kitchen, and Garbage

The high altitude and winter conditions will make your group hungry. Plan substantial, high-energy, hearty meals to keep the energy level at its peak. Keep liquids available (both hot and cold) available at all times. Cooking pots and serving utensils are available for use in food preparation; however, we prefer that you bring your own plates, cups, bowls, and eating utensils.

All food and garbage must be taken out by your group. There is no garbage service during the off-season. Be sure to bring cleaning supplies for the kitchen and bathrooms. All areas must be left in clean condition before you depart.

Clothing & Personal Supplies

Proper winter clothing is a must. Underclothes should be warm and outer clothing and shoes should be water-repellant. Bring at least one complete change of clothes. Don't forget lip balm, sunscreen, gloves, and a warm hat. Sunglasses or goggles are suggested for everyone. The bright sun off the snow can be harmful. If practical, try to plan activities in the shade if the sun is bright.

Remember the Scout Motto: Be Prepared!

Items You Must Bring!

- ✓ Garbage bags, paper towels, toilet paper (you must haul out all your trash)
- ✓ Cleaning supplies for kitchen and bathroom areas; brooms and mops are provided.
- ✓ Splitting mauls, ax, splitting wedges (you must split your own wood and replenish the existing firewood supply before leaving; wood rounds are provided from felled trees)
- ✓ Warm sleeping bags (0-degree for camping outdoors or in cabins; 30-degree for inside Ibach or Murray Lodges)
- ✓ Extra warm, dry clothing; you will need it!
- ✓ Shovel for digging around vehicles or building snow shelters.

Communication Onsite

The most reliable way to communicate with the people at camp is via mobile phone. Verizon cellular service does not work well around the property, but other services such as AT&T have much better overall reception.

MARIN COUNCIL
Boy Scouts of America